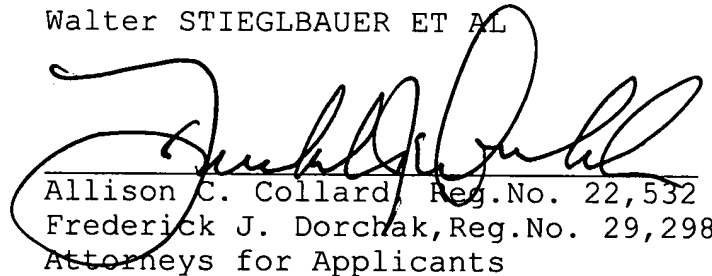


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1, the claims have been amended to delete the multiple dependencies and to conform to amendments made in the international application. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter STIEGLBAUER ET AL



Allison C. Collard, Reg.No. 22,532
Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg.No. 29,298
Attorneys for Applicants

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802
KK:djp

Express Mail No. EV 590259072 US
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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to the MAIL STOP: PCT PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Maria Guastella